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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

25X1 **INFORMATION REPORT**

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)/Russia

DATE DISTR. 30 April 1948

SUBJECT 25X1		Strained Relations between SED and SMA
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the Soviet Union has no intention of opening hostilities against the United States and will carefully avoid being frightened into war by the aggressive policy of the latter nation. This may mean that political concessions will be made outside of Germany and, more important, that Russia may yield to the demands of the western powers on the question of a general German currency reform. This must not be interpreted as a change of Russian aims in Germany.

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2. The strained relations existing between the SMA and the SED may be attributed to the fact that the groups in Moscow which desire complete exclusion of the SED from German political life have been more active of late; but it is fairly certain that Marshal Sokolovski will carry his point and that the struggle for Germany will be continued along the old lines. In any case, the present attitude of the SMA, particularly toward the Economic Commission, is not permanent but merely the result of uncertainty in Moscow.

3. Ulbricht said that food rations in the Eastern Zone would not be tripled as of 1 May and that the end of food rationing would not be announced on 1 September, although this was the original plan. He did not know whether the change, ordered by Sokolovski, was due to the fact that the necessary food supplies, which were to come from Russia, were not available, or whether the move was simply postponed so as to coincide with the formation of a German government by the Volksrat.

He is also convinced

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that the policy backed by Zhdanov, Mikoyan, and Bulganin in the Politburo will be carried out in Germany, particularly since expected delays of the Russians in reaching political decisions will be harmful to the policy represented by the SED. *

4. Tremendous responsibilities will rest upon the SED during the next few months, Ulbricht continued, because the fight of the progressive world against reactionary capitalism is centering in Berlin. Whoever holds Berlin holds Germany, and whoever holds Germany holds Europe. A government established and functioning in any other city would not have the confidence and support of the German people, and the SED must oppose attempts to locate an eastern zonal government elsewhere. A clear socialist policy, uprooting of all corrupt elements, and greatly increased propaganda must be the weapons of the SED in the struggle for Berlin; this struggle will eventually be decided, not by the war of nerves being waged by the occupying powers, but by the population at the polls. It is childish to believe that the western powers can be driven out of Berlin by means of petty diplomatic chicanery.

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